

City of Kirkland  
Questions & Answers for

**Request for Qualifications  
Architectural & Engineering Consulting Services  
Cross-Kirkland Corridor Master Plan  
JOB NUMBER 04-13-PW**

**Statements of Qualifications are due by 4 p.m. Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Question 1: – In reviewing the scope associated with this RFQ, I see that there is a requirement for identifying and mapping critical areas (Task 2), an extensive public outreach process (Task 3), and a reference to “environmental process implications” (Task 6), however, there does not appear to be a SEPA component of this solicitation. Is that correct?

Answer: That’s correct. We are not looking for SEPA on the Master Plan and we’re not looking for SEPA to be completed on possible corridor alternatives. But we are interested in the qualitative nature of the environmental review that may be needed on future projects.

Question 2: - The RFP for the Cross-Kirkland Corridor Master Plan indicates that the Final Plan will be adopted by the Transportation Commission, Park Board and City Council. However, the RFP is silent on how the Plan will be coordinated with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Compliance with SEPA is required for local government adoption of plans. Could you explain how the City plans to comply with SEPA for this Master Plan?

Answer:

We believe the master plan is SEPA exempt under the following WAC exemption:

197\_11-800 (17) **Information collection and research.** Basic data collection, research, resource evaluation, requests for proposals (RFPs), and the conceptual planning of proposals shall be exempt. These may be strictly for information-gathering, or as part of a study leading to a proposal that has not yet been approved, adopted or funded; this exemption does not include any agency action that commits the agency to proceed with such a proposal. (Also see WAC 197-11-070.)

The operative provision of 197-11-070 as referenced is that no action is taken that would “limit the choice of reasonable alternatives”. However, 197-11-070 also reiterates that “this section does not preclude developing plans or designs, issuing requests for proposals (RFPs), securing options, or performing other work necessary to develop an application for a proposal, as long as such activities are consistent with subsection (1)”

We feel it would be premature to do SEPA with the master plan because it is primarily developing options that will eventually lead to a specific proposal, funding, and permitting that will be subject to SEPA review.

Posted on January 30, 2013

Barry Scott, Purchasing Agent  
Phone: 425-587-3123